

IC 12-8-14**Chapter 14. Family Support Program****IC 12-8-14-1****Establishment and purpose**

Sec. 1. The family support program is established to develop a family support policy state plan for the support of families of persons with disabilities and for persons with disabilities, including children with special health care needs or emotional disorders. The objectives of the family support program include the following:

- (1) Assist families to care for persons with disabilities in the persons' own homes, including implementation of proposals regarding personal attendant services.
- (2) Assist persons with disabilities to make decisions for themselves.
- (3) Allow a person with a disability to live separately from the person's family, if the person with a disability so chooses.

As added by P.L.272-1999, SEC.26.

IC 12-8-14-2**Requirements of family support policy state plan**

Sec. 2. The family support policy state plan must do the following:

- (1) Focus on the family and the community of the person with a disability, including the parents of the person with a disability.
- (2) Encourage a partnership among families, consumers, and professionals in the development of an individual family support service plan that begins within a reasonable time and that is periodically reviewed.
- (3) Promote the participation of families of persons with disabilities in local step ahead councils.
- (4) Foster the involvement of families and persons with disabilities in decision making, needs assessment, and providing services.
- (5) Provide for the establishment of a systematic process for admission to participation in the family support program and other programs that help individuals and families identify and satisfy their health, education, social service, and other needs and choices.
- (6) Encourage program flexibility as unique family needs change and provide flexible program funding for alternative choices.
- (7) Examine funding mechanisms, including sliding fee scales and annual budgeting processes for the delivery of services.
- (8) Promote a system of funding for family support services that follows the person receiving the services.
- (9) Encourage interagency collaboration among different agencies and programs at the community level, with coordination and review by the office of the secretary of family and social services to ensure statewide coverage.

- (10) Provide for the establishment of information and referral systems to determine gaps in services in the state and to develop a resource network that includes the public and private sectors.
- (11) Encourage outreach to inform families and consumers of services and public and private agencies about the family support program. The outreach includes publishing a brochure listing service options and defining family rights.
- (12) Promote training of personnel providing individualized support services and training of families and consumers on consumer empowerment and service availability.
- (13) Promote a community centered approach to include the following:
 - (A) Available services.
 - (B) Public and private sector resources.
 - (C) Governmental agencies.
 - (D) Public and private agencies providing family support services.
- (14) Promote integration of a person with a disability into the community.

As added by P.L.272-1999, SEC.26.

IC 12-8-14-3

Administration

Sec. 3. (a) The secretary of family and social services shall administer the family support program to produce a state plan, based on limits of appropriations, to promote the statewide availability of services.

(b) The state plan required by subsection (a) must include the following objectives:

- (1) Implementing a fair, swift, and convenient process for determination of family eligibility.
- (2) Assuring that all organizations implementing individualized support services will incorporate a family focus in providing family support programs.
- (3) Using existing local organizations as the single point of entry for families seeking services.
- (4) Using existing public and private local organizations, including the county step ahead councils, parent advisory groups, and natural and informal networks of family and friends, to carry out the daily operations of the family support program.
- (5) Providing a method for contracting with agencies, grantees, or vendors to provide individualized support services, especially in regions of Indiana that are inadequately served.
- (6) Developing a method for providing technical assistance to agencies and organizations, including consumer groups, that are developing or offering individualized support services to assure the coordination of publicly funded programs and generic services and to assure that other publicly funded programs and agencies are not supplanted.

(7) Using available state, regional, and local media to support outreach to families.

(8) Providing due process hearings on eligibility and other decisions affecting services.

(9) Exploring sources of and opportunities for federal participation in and funding of services for families of persons with disabilities and persons with disabilities.

(10) Giving priority to programs preventing and ameliorating the impact of disabilities on families.

As added by P.L.272-1999, SEC.26.

IC 12-8-14-4

Annual report

Sec. 4. The office of the secretary shall submit an annual report on the family support program to the governor and to the general assembly before July 1 of each year. A report submitted under this section to the general assembly must be in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6.

As added by P.L.272-1999, SEC.26. Amended by P.L.28-2004, SEC.88.

IC 12-8-14-5

Services permitted

Sec. 5. Services to support families of persons with disabilities and persons with disabilities may include services available within the division of family resources, the division of disability and rehabilitative services, the division of aging, the division of mental health and addiction, the state department of health, the department of education, the department of workforce development, and the department of correction, including case management and service coordination.

As added by P.L.272-1999, SEC.26. Amended by P.L.215-2001, SEC.34; P.L.141-2006, SEC.30; P.L.145-2006, SEC.67; P.L.1-2007, SEC.113.

IC 12-8-14-6

Family support council

Sec. 6. (a) The family support council is established. The family support council consists of twelve (12) members. The governor shall appoint the members of the family support council. A member may be removed from the council by the governor and serves at the governor's pleasure.

(b) At least seven (7) of the members of the family support council must be individuals who are eligible for family support services.

(c) The family support council must include a representative of the governor's planning council on people with disabilities.

(d) The family support council shall meet at least quarterly to monitor the family support policy state plan.

(e) The family support council shall:

(1) communicate information and recommendations concerning family support to the secretary; and

(2) assist in developing state policies and programs that have an impact on individuals with disabilities and their families.

(f) The secretary shall designate personnel to assist the family support council in performing the functions authorized by this section.

As added by P.L.272-1999, SEC.26.

IC 12-8-14-7

Majority of votes required for action

Sec. 7. The affirmative votes of a majority of the voting members appointed to the family support council are required for the family support council to take action on any measure.

As added by P.L.272-1999, SEC.26.